

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Cancelled)
2. (New) A method for improving the response time of an electrostatic discharge (ESD) circuit, comprising:
 - receiving a voltage at a terminal pad;
 - detecting whether a higher frequency voltage increase is present on said terminal pad;
 - reducing said voltage received at said terminal pad;
 - bypassing said step of reducing said voltage received at said terminal pad when said higher frequency voltage increase is detected;
 - comparing said higher frequency voltage increase to a threshold voltage; and
 - activating a discharge path when said higher frequency voltage increase exceeds said threshold voltage;
 - whereby said higher frequency voltage increase is directed away from a main circuit without substantial delay.
3. (New) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of deactivating said discharge path after a period of time.

4. (New) An electrostatic discharge (ESD) circuit, comprising:
 - voltage reduction means for protecting ESD circuit components from voltage stress;
 - bypass means for bypassing said voltage reduction means when a higher frequency voltage increase is detected;
 - discharge means for directing without substantial delay said higher frequency voltage increase away from a main circuit; and
 - means for triggering said discharge means when said higher frequency voltage increase exceeds a threshold voltage.
5. (New) A system for improving electrostatic discharge (ESD) circuit response time, comprising:
 - an ESD circuit;
 - an ESD protection circuit that protects said ESD circuit from voltage stress; and
 - a bypass circuit that bypasses said ESD protection circuit when a higher frequency voltage increase is detected;
 - whereby said ESD circuit directs said higher frequency voltage increase away from a main circuit without substantial delay when said higher frequency voltage increase exceeds a threshold voltage.
6. (New) The system according to claim 5, wherein said ESD protection circuit comprises one or more diodes.

7. (New) The system according to claim 5, wherein said bypass circuit comprises one or more discrete capacitors.

8. (New) The system according to claim 5, wherein said bypass circuit comprises one or more transistor-based capacitors.